

**EXPRESS MAIL RECEIPT NO. ER441434651US
DEPOSITED ON DECEMBER 15, 2003**

**PATENT
DKT. STL11384**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent application of: **Shawn A. Ruden, Denis A. Seewald and Arthur A. Busick**

For: **DISC BIASING APPARATUS WITH A SPLIT-FINGER BIASING TOOL FOR A DATA STORAGE DEVICE**, the specification of which is being transmitted herewith.

**Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

List of Sections Forming Part of This Information Disclosure Statement

The following sections are being submitted for this Information Disclosure Statement:

1. Preliminary Statements
2. Forms PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly Form PTO-1449)
3. Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying This Statement (Copies of U.S. Patents and U.S. Patent Applications cited as references are no longer required to be submitted with patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 as indicated in 1276 OG 55.)
4. Identification of Person(s) Making This Information Disclosure Statement

Section 1. Preliminary statements

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information, of which they are aware that they believe may be material to the examination of this application, and in respect of which, there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.

Section 2. Forms PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly Form PTO-1449)

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

1

Complete if Known

Application Number

Filing Date

12/15/2003

First Named Inventor

Shawn A. Ruden

Art Unit

Unknown

Examiner Name

Unknown

Attorney Docket Number

STL11384

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	AA	US- 4,933,927	06/12/1990	Ross	
	AB	US- 5,572,382	11/05/1996	Kuno	
	AC	US- 5,825,746	10/20/1998	Lee	
	AD	US- 6,101,876	08/15/2000	Brooks et al.	
	AE	US- 6,158,112	12/12/2000	Kim et al.	
	AF	US- 6,237,242	05/29/2001	Woytassek et al.	
	AG	US- 6,453,541	09/24/2002	Guthrie et al.	
	AH	US- 2002/0029667	03/14/2002	Shiraishi et al.	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines,, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner
Signature

Date

Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	
				Filing Date	12/15/2003
				First Named Inventor	Shawn A. Ruden
				Art Unit	Unknown
				Examiner Name	Unknown
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	STL11384

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
	BA	S. RUDEN, "Plate, Contact, Alternate," Drawing, Seagate Technology LLC, (January 3, 2002), Drawing #D0000002333, Sheet 1 of 1.	
	BB	S. RUDEN, "Plate, Contact, Outside," Drawing, Seagate Technology LLC, (June 16, 2000), Drawing #100106932, Sheet 1 of 1.	
	BC	S. RUDEN, "Plate, Contact, Middle," Drawing, Seagate Technology LLC, (June 16, 2000), Drawing #100106936, Sheet 1 of 1.	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Section 3. Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying This Statement

Inasmuch as the references cited in PTO/SB/08A are all U.S. Patents/Patent Applications, copies are no longer required to accompany this information statement. (1276 OG 55).

Legible copies of all items listed in Form PTO/SB/08B (substitute for Form PTO-1449) accompany this information statement.

Section 4. Identification of Person Making This Information Disclosure Statement

The person making this certification is:

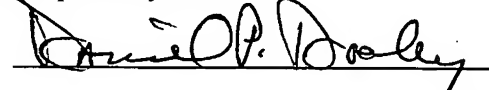
- a. the practitioner who signs below on the basis of the information supplied by the inventor(s) and in the practitioner's file.

Date: 12-15-2003

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